

GAME FACE

INDIANS SCOREBOOK MAGAZINE

TRIBE WIN LEADERS



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Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



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In the hoopla surrounding the Indians return to post-season play, the success of their Minor League teams may have been overlooked by some – but that success is evident in the performances of their young position players and pitchers alike. Read about the next generation of Tribesman – and check out Bill Needle's look at front office changes involving the personnel who make the BIG decisions for the Indians at the Minor and Major League levels (see *Tribe Promotes from Within*, page 65).

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On the Cover: Indians pitchers Bartolo Colon and C.C. Sabathia



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Among the Indians, it's called "The Baseball Life." Dad plays baseball eight months a year at its highest levels while Mom must pick up the slack caused by Dad's absence and focus on his career.

If it takes a special man to play Major League Baseball, it also takes a special woman to be the wife and partner of a big leaguer.

Ellis (pictured left) and Dori Burks seem to have a handle on "The Baseball Life," although it hasn't been as easy as they expected – even though they entered into marriage and family life knowing there would be challenges along the way.

by Bill Needle

A Baseball Family Story...

A Baseball Family Story

Nonetheless, they've matured and flourished as individuals and as partners well into a second decade. In addition, they've also brought four, well-adjusted children into the world.

"Thirteen years ago, when my wife and I started out in our marriage, it was just us two," Burks says. "It was convenient. She would come see me wherever we played.

"But we wanted a large family and we planned out what direction our family life would take. We knew how tough it was going to be to have a large family with me playing Major League Baseball. Or

**"But the reality
of balancing family and
baseball really hit in '98
when we were traded
from Colorado
to the Giants."**

**Dori Burks
Wife of Indians OF/DH Ellis Burks**

we thought we knew how tough it was going to be.

"But not really," Burks adds with one of those laughs that convey a whole lot more acquired wisdom than humor.

"We thought we knew what we were getting into," Dori Burks says. "But there was just no way we could have anticipated the effect Ellis' career has had on our family life.

"We were able to do a lot even after two of our four children were born. With Carissa and Elisha about two-and-a-half years apart, they were both little ones at the same time.



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdton

Gotcha, Marty!

Imagine sitting in a Major League dugout side-by-side with some of your favorite Major Leaguers – and this is not during some special, one-time event, but during game-after-game. Young Christopher Burks gets to do just that. And while he, no doubt, is having a good time, his presence hasn't been a "one-sided relationship." The little guy has brought laughs and smiles to many of the players – including outfielder Marty Cordova. The talk around the Indians dugout is that Marty and Chris often have differing opinions as to which players will get a hit and when. So if you should catch them on camera together, one is likely reminding the other who is right more often. It's hard to say whose predictions are more often correct. Neither one of them will give you a straight answer:

Pictured left to right: Marty Cordova, Chris Burks, and C.C. Sabathia.

A Baseball Family Story

We just packed them up and they went everywhere with us.

"But the reality of balancing family and baseball really hit in '98 when we were traded from Colorado to the Giants. We'd been in Denver for about five years, were settled, and the two older girls were established in school.

"But when Ellis left the Rockies in mid-year for San Francisco, the reality really hit. We didn't have the luxury of packing everybody up and going to San Francisco with Ellis. Chris was four, Carissa was nine, and Elisha was about seven – and there was no way we were going to put three kids through that kind of adjustment."

"My wife is just a tremendous person," Burks says. "She's dealt with so many things in the course of our career. She's dealt with so many things the kids have gone through because it seems like I'm never there.

"She's the mother and the father when Dad's off playing baseball, Spring Training, or whatever. You have to commend her because she's really the foundation our house is built on."

To Indians fans, seven-year-old Christopher may be the best-known of the four Burks children. But there are three daughters in the home who may very well need the influence of their father – the primary male

"My wife is just a tremendous person. She's dealt with so many things in the course of our career . . .

"She's the mother and the father when Dad's off playing baseball, Spring Training, or whatever. You have to commend her because she's really the foundation our house is built on."

Indians OF/DH Ellis Burks

Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson



figure in their lives – as much or more than Chris, who spends considerable time at Jacobs Field with his dad and two dozen older brothers with names like Omar, Kenny, Roberto, and Jim. So what about the Burks daughters?

Clearly, Dori Burks is a magnificent mother who relates to her daughters in

Although Dad might be away often, there are some perks to being the child of a Major League Baseball player – like getting to know the manager. (Above, Charlie Manuel with Chris Burks.)

all the ways one generation of women relate to the next. But what about Dad – whose influence, many experts suggest, has a bearing

INSTANT CLASSIC

BY CHUCK MURR

Imagine being safely swept off the Titanic at the last possible instant . . . and minutes later setting foot on the moon.

That's the type of incredible journey the Indians – and their fans – experienced August 5 in a game that stretched into August 6 and provided a lifetime's worth of emotions.

"It felt like winning the seventh game of the World Series," Indians reliever Bob

Reason To Smile: Tribe centerfielder Kenny Lofton (below) and catcher Einar Diaz (opposite page) have been key run-producers often this season – as they were on August 5 and 6.



Kenny Lofton slid headlong into home plate at 12:19AM to complete the 4-hour, 11-minute mosaic. It made the Indians only the third team in history to win after trailing by 12 runs.

Wickman said of the astounding comeback from a 12-run deficit after six innings to defeat the mighty Seattle Mariners, 15-14. Cleveland scored three runs in the seventh inning, four in the eighth, and a Houdini-like five runs after two were out in the ninth to tie the score.

The Indians were down to their very last strike three times, making the winning run in the 11th inning almost anti-climactic.

"What they did is almost impossible to do," a stunned Seattle manager Lou Piniella said. Piniella pondered a second, then chuckled in amazement: "But they did it. What can I say?"

Kenny Lofton slid headlong into home plate at 12:19AM to complete the 4-hour, 11-minute mosaic. It made the Indians only the third team in history to win after trailing by

12 runs. And who is around today to recall what it was like when the 1925 Philadelphia Athletics or 1911 Detroit Tigers did it?

The game was an instant classic – so proclaimed by ESPN, which carried the proceedings live that night, but turned it into a special telecast on its *Classic Network* just two days later.

"I can't explain it," a breathless Lofton said in the Indians jubilant clubhouse. "It was unbelievable. I've never been in a game like that in my life. My voice is gone from hollering so much. It was fun. Wow."

It wasn't fun for the Mariners, baseball's dominant team all season. "It was a fluke, a freak thing," Seattle's Bret Boone said. "You never see a game like this. Never. No matter how good your offense is, you don't come back from 12 down. But they did."

Even Hall of Famer Yogi ("It's Never Over Till It's Over") Berra would have thought the Indians were finished by the time Seattle led, 14-2, after six innings.

"It was embarrassing," said Indians manager Charlie Manuel, who took stars Roberto Alomar, Juan Gonzalez, Ellis Burks, and Travis Fryman out of the lineup. Piniella acknowledged the white flag and replaced his three best hitters: Ichiro Suzuki, Edgar Martinez, and John Olerud.

Poor Piniella. Every time he turned to his usually reliable bullpen, it was like he got a pie in the kisser.

One-time Nasty Boy Norm Charlton, All-Star Jeff Nelson, and ace closer Kazuhiro Sasaki all failed him.

And how about flame-throwing Arthur Rhodes, the lefthander with an ERA even more sparkling than his diamond earrings? Splat . . . a Boston – make that Cleveland – cream pie!

In all, six Mariners relievers were pounded for 10 runs and 16 hits over the final 3-2/3 innings.

Russell Branyan, who had replaced Burks, started it all with a leadoff homer in the seventh. Big deal. It made it 14-3.

A two-out single by Einar Diaz and walks to Lofton and Omar Vizquel loaded the bases for Jolbert Cabrera, who had replaced Alomar. His two-run single made it 14-5.

Jim Thome opened the eighth with another solo homer and Branyan was hit by a pitch. Then Marty Cordova went deep for two runs and an RBI-double by Vizquel later in the inning made it 14-9.

"Being the masochist that I am, I kept the TV on," lifelong Tribe fan Sue Klein of

"It felt like winning the seventh game of the World Series."

Indians Reliever Bob Wickman on the Indians Record-Tying Victory



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

Lakewood, OH said. "When it got to be 14-2, I was pretty disgusted, so I went into the kitchen. A few minutes later, I heard some yelling on TV, and I started watching again. I got on the phone with my nephew and we were both yelling and screaming with every pitch.

"It was the most incredible thing I've ever seen. It's a great lesson to learn . . . never turn the TV off or never leave a game. Never."

Another family shared similar emotions by phone. Comedian Drew Carey and his brother exchanged calls throughout the dramatic ninth.

"It was our Mom's birthday, so we had all been out to dinner and didn't really know much about the game," Roger Carey explained. "I got home, turned on the TV, and couldn't believe it. I called Drew and told him. Then he called me and said how incredible it was. Then I called him. And he called me.

"Finally, we just stayed on the line. We yelled every time a run scored."

So did another family, 1,000 miles away from Jacobs Field.

Ken and Debbie Carpenter are fervent fans who never miss a game, either in person, on TV, or on the radio. They have had Indians season tickets ever since Jacobs Field opened in 1994 – even though they live in Orlando, FL.

"We watched every inning," Ken said. "We were totally (fill in the appropriate adjective of disgust here) by the fifth inning, and going nuts at the end. How many thousands of people turned that baby off and went to bed? Not us!

"When Seattle was piling up runs, I said it was a national embarrassment. It got to be 14-2, and I had it on as background noise. With three runs in the seventh, I told Deb, 'It ain't over till it's over.' Then four more in the eighth, and I actually started believing it could happen; then five in the ninth and we were high-fiving each other and screaming like crazy!"

Clevelanders Monique Augusta, an actress living in New York City, said she screamed

for a month. "I was out to dinner and had no idea what was going on," she said. "I got home and turned the TV on just as the ninth inning started. I was screaming like crazy. And I've been yelling at all these Yankees fans here ever since. Their team never did anything like that."

The Indians and the Mariners had expected the outcome to be a foregone conclusion because of the lopsided score. Both removed a number of their star players. With large numbers of player changes, catcher Eddie Taubensee (below) found himself in the unlikely position of DH, batting cleanup.

Reliever John Rocker, right, was charged-up, as usual, and struck out the side in the 11th.



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdow, all photos



Like millions nationwide, Wally Mieskoski of Cleveland turned his TV off and went to bed.

"I picked up the paper the next morning and did one of those classic double-takes," Mieskoski said. "I dropped the paper like it was a hot potato and stared at the score in disbelief."

For those writing those newspaper accounts, it was an adrenalin-pounding experience never to be forgotten.

"I've never seen anything like it," *The Plain Dealer* columnist Bill Livingston said. "The Tribe had been battered around like pinatas all week and then for something like that to happen? It was surrealistic."

"Maybe that NFL playoff game where Buffalo came back from 35-3 down at half-time to beat Houston (41-38 in overtime in 1993) might compare. Nah, not really."

A legion of writers scrambled to make deadline. "This game took four years off my life," said Tom Withers of *The Associated Press*.

Withers rewrote his story five times after the seventh inning, but took a quick instant to call his brother Bob, an Indians fan living in Long Island, New York.

"Wake up and turn on the TV, greatest comeback in history," he screamed into his cell phone. "Gotta go!"

Then it was back to speed-typing on his computer.

"I wrote four completely different stories," Livingston revealed. "Number One was 'oh my, the pitching is dreadful.' That changed to 'the pitching's so dreadful that not even a great offense can save this team.' Those two never got into the paper."

You think the players felt pressure? How about frazzled reporters? The game changed so fast and furiously, scorebooks were a scrawled mess.

The Mariners used 21 players; Cleveland employed 18. Seattle's seven pitchers made 206 pitches; Cleveland's five hurlers threw 187. At one point, Piniella switched late-inning substitute Charles Gipson from right field to left, then put him back in right. Eddie Taubensee batted four times in the cleanup position for the Indians.

With two outs in the ninth, the Indians got to their last strike for the first time, but Wil Cordero coaxed a walk to load the bases. Diaz also went to a full count before hitting a two-run single to make it 14-11.

A single by Lofton reloaded the bases for Vizquel, who was stopped by Manuel as he went to the plate. "I told 'O' if he went up there and stayed patient he'd hit a triple into the right-field corner," Manuel explained later.

And that is exactly what happened. Seattle 14, Cleveland 14.

"I didn't really buy it," Vizquel said later of Manuel's prediction. "I said, 'Yeah, sure, Charlie, whatever.' But it happened."

Vizquel was stopped one more time on his way to bat. Son Nico, 5, serving as one of the Indians batboys, tugged on Dad's jersey. "He said, 'Gimme a high-five, Daddy,'" Vizquel related. "I told him, 'Not now, not now. Daddy's busy.'"

Down 1-2 in the count, Vizquel took two close pitches to run the count full, then fouled off two more pitches to stay

Infielder/outfielder Jolbert Cabrera has had more than one broken-bat, key hit this season. It was his stroke in the 11th that gave the Indians their historic win.

"This game took four years off my life," said Tom Withers of The Associated Press. Withers rewrote his story five times after the seventh inning . . .

alive. The next pitch was ripped just inside the first-base bag.

Piniella didn't second-guess the decision to have first baseman Ed Sprague playing wide of the bag instead of hugging the line – which is the conventional wisdom in late innings.

"We don't do that very often unless there is a power-hitter up there," Piniella said. "Anyway, the pitch was supposed to be outside. It got too much of the plate."

That was just fine with Manuel and the jubilant Indians.

"That comeback was one of the best I've ever been around," the Indians manager said. "The biggest message is you never get down, you never give up. Keep swinging."

The Indians did as the game rolled into extra innings and past midnight.



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



Although reliever Bob Wickman (above, with Einar Diaz) did not pitch for a "save" on the historic night, he said the Tribe's victory felt like winning the World Series.

Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

Lofton and Vizquel each got one-out singles in the 11th off the Mariners seventh pitcher of the night, Jose Paniagua. That made Cleveland's suddenly dynamic duo atop the lineup a perfect 6-for-6 with two walks in the final five innings.

"It was like cutting your fingernails and bleeding to death," said Charlton, who gave up two runs and three hits in his 1-1/3 innings. "We just couldn't stop it. But I'll bet you money you'll never see it again. Never."

Up stepped Cabrera, whose bat shattered as it made contact with a Paniagua pitch, sending a soft liner toward left field. The ball dropped in front of Mark McLemore and third-base coach Joel Skinner waved home Lofton from second base.

"I had to freeze to make sure it was going to drop," Lofton said. "And when it did, I was off to the races. Man, that was fun."

Lofton leaped into the arms of on-deck hitter Taubensee, who carried the outfielder

over his shoulder like a giant stuffed animal for winning first prize at the county fair. All the Indians players raced onto the field and fans frolicked in the stands to the blasting strains of "Rock and Roll All Night" and "Cleveland Rocks" over the sound system.

"Back in 1994, '95, and '96, there was a roar in this park," said Manuel. "You couldn't hear voices, just a roar. Like when you walk on a beach by the ocean. We get that roar every once in a while. Tonight, we got the roar."

Suzuki and Mike Cameron each drove in three runs early as the Mariners seemed to roar away. Cleveland eventually countered with 23 hits, including four apiece by Lofton, Vizquel, and Cordova.

John Rocker, Cleveland's fifth pitcher, really got the crowd roaring as he raced to the mound amidst a standing ovation. The pumped-up reliever struck out the side in the 11th – and the intensity carried over to the bottom of the inning.

Perhaps more important, though not as dramatic, was the tenacious pitching of

lefthander Mike Bacsik in his Major-League debut. The soft-spoken rookie relieved starter Dave Burba with the bases loaded and none out in the third – and allowed all those inherited runners to score. Burba was charged with seven runs in only two innings – but Bacsik was hammered harder. The first four batters and seven of the first eight he faced in the Major Leagues all reached base as the Mariners sailed to a 12-0 lead.

"I really didn't know what to think," Bacsik said. "It was all happening so fast. I just wanted to try and settle down and show that I belonged up here."

Bacsik gave up two more runs in the fifth, but worked a total of six innings – indeed showing he belonged.

"I was proud of the kid," Manuel said. "Even when Seattle was scoring off him, he was making some good pitches. With everything that happened here tonight, that kid's work is what gave us a chance to win. He didn't fold."

Neither did any of his new teammates.

It's Possible!

The following folks certainly were not at the Indians historic victory at Jacobs Field on August 5-6, 2001 – but their words come close to conveying the experience:

"Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth."
– Sherlock Holmes (by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

"We all have possibilities we don't know about. We can do things we don't even dream we can do." – Dale Carnegie

"The word impossible is not in my dictionary." – Napoleon Bonaparte

"Even when the odds seemed entirely against me, I never quit trying. I never felt I didn't have a chance to win." – Arnold Palmer

"Unlike the mediocre, intrepid spirits seek victory over those things that seem impossible." – Ferdinand Magellan

"You teach me baseball and I'll teach you relativity. You will learn about relativity faster." – Albert Einstein

"Sports do not build character. They reveal it." – John Wooden

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." – Vincent Van Gogh

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible." – Walt Disney

"It's never over till it's over." – Yogi Berra

Cleveland Indians Charities Wraps Up Multitude of Fund Raising Programs

The 100th Anniversary Season of Indians baseball was very special for the fans and also for Cleveland Indians Charities (CIC). As the charitable arm of the Cleveland Indians, CIC held several fund raising activities to generate funds in support of youth educational and recreational programs in Northeast Ohio.

Picnic in the Park with the Stars



The most memorable event was the Fourth Annual Picnic in the Park with the Stars – a 100th Anniversary Celebration Gala. Held at Jacobs Field on July 21, the Ballpark was center stage for members of the Top 100 Greatest Indians and the current roster.

Fans in attendance had the opportunity to meet and mingle with the past, present, and future of Indians baseball. Honorary co-captains Rocky Colavito, Bob Feller, Sam McDowell, Herb Score, and Andre Thornton joined about 30 of the Top 100 Indians for a reunion at Jacobs Field.

The weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the 700 people in attendance. Through ticket sales and a silent auction, nearly \$120,000 was raised from this year's Picnic in the Park.

Tribe Jam 2001



July was a busy month as CIC held Tribe Jam 2001 on July 7 at the Nautica Stage. Russell Branyan, Dave Burba, Marty Cordova, Jim Thome, and Omar Vizquel entertained the crowd with songs including *American Woman*, *Crazy Train*, and *Sweet Emotion*. The crowd even joined the fun, singing "Happy Birthday" to Dave Burba.



Indians alumni Mark Langston re-joined the team for the third annual concert and helped produce the show.

Michael Stanley and the Resonators provided musical support for the Tribe, performing some of Stanley's well-known songs including *In the Heartland* and *Somewhere in the Night*. The group ended the show with Stanley's *My Town*.

Proceeds totaled \$25,000 from the charity concert.



Continued, please turn the page.

All Photographs This Page: Gregory Drezdron



Above: Tribe great Andre Thornton signs autographs at Picnic in the Park. Left: Demonstrating their musical skills are outfielder Marty Cordova and first baseman Jim Thome. Right: Short-stop Omar Vizquel is as comfortable behind the drums as he is turning a double play.



CIC Celebrity Golf Classic



The last fund raiser for 2001 was the 10th Annual CIC Celebrity Golf Classic at Quail Hollow Resort (September 17). Tribe players, broadcasters, front office personnel, alumni, and local sports personalities were among the participants. The weather was perfect as approximately 250 golfers teed off for charity.

Great prizes on both the Weiskopf and Devlin courses were provided by Indians sponsors. The silent and live auctions of baseball memorabilia generated nearly \$15,000. FOX Sports' own Rick Manning was the big winner of the day – hitting a hole-in-one to win a \$10,000 prize.

The Golf Classic raised nearly \$50,000. In light of the terrorist attacks on the USA, all proceeds from this event will be donated to the American Red Cross in support of the relief efforts.



Pepsi Corporate Hitting Challenge

The Sixth Annual Pepsi Corporate Hitting Challenge pitted Cleveland businesses against each other. In this single-elimination tournament, participants had the opportunity to take swings off of a pitching machine at home plate at Jacobs Field. Their day also included warm-ups in the batting cages, their names announced on the scoreboard and PA, and a souvenir video of the action.



More than \$50,000 was raised for CIC from this year's hitting challenge. As of press time, the winner of the tournament had not yet been determined. The 2001 tournament winner will be announced in next year's *Game Face Magazine*.

Jacobs Field Tours

Since Jacobs Field opened in 1994, millions of fans have walked through the gates to enjoy Indians baseball. Thousands more have visited for behind-the-scenes tours of one of baseball's greatest parks.

This year, nearly 25,000 fans walked the concourse, viewed the Press Box and a Party Suite, and sat in the home dugout on their tour of Jacobs Field. In addition, through the generous support of OfficeMax, thousands of school kids in the area visited the park for a tour. Their classroom also received a special school curriculum to accompany their tour.

OfficeMax

Tours will begin again in April of 2002 for schools, and in May 2002 for the public. This year's tour program generated nearly \$70,000 for CIC.



Online Auctions

Fans from across the country and even the world helped raise money in 2001 for CIC. By participating in the CIC Online Auction, fans were able to bid on a variety of Indians memorabilia, including autographed baseballs, jerseys, bats, and other unique items. Visit www.indians.com to check out this week's auction offerings. As of press time, nearly \$40,000 was raised through the online auction.

Bud Light FanCast Booth



While visiting Jacobs Field for a game, many fans enjoyed the sights from a unique perspective – the Bud Light FanCast Booth. Participants had a different view of the game from a Jacobs Field broadcast booth as they called all the action happening on the field. A souvenir video recording of the unique experience was part of the package, so they could show their family and friends their newly acquired skills. All proceeds from the booth went to CIC.

Continued, please turn the page.



All Photographs This Page: Gregory Drezdron

Pictured this page (clockwise, beginning left): Indians radio voice Tom Hamilton congratulates Tribe cable announcer Rick Manning at the Golf Classic. (Manning hit a hole-in-one.)

Catcher Eddie Taubensee gets in a little golf and enjoys some relaxing time with his son, Benjamin.

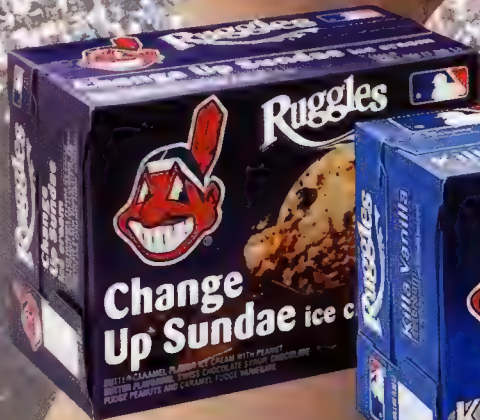
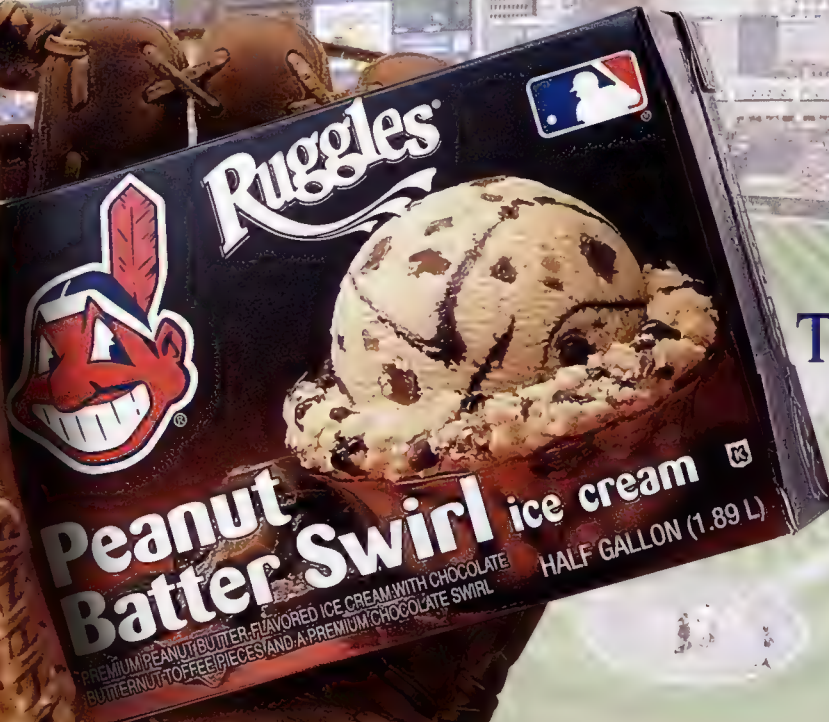
Tribe fans call play-by-play in the Bud Light FanCast Booth.



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by Gregory Drexler

Giving To Rebuild America

A significant amount of money was raised through the generosity of Cleveland Indians corporate partners. The generosity spread to the field and clubhouse as well. After the September tragedy in New York; Washington, DC; and Shanksville, PA; the players took a collection for the American Red Cross – gathering nearly \$100,000.

Several of the Indians also are making personal contributions to CIC, including Ellis Burks, Juan Gonzalez, Omar Vizquel, and Einar Diaz. Paul Shuey and Eddie Taubensee also made personal contributions to The City Mission; and Wil Cordero made a personal donation to the Roberto Clemente Foundation.

CIC's Donation Plans

Based on fund raising activities in 2001, CIC will make its annual donations to local organizations in support of CIC's mission in January 2002. Those groups will include the following CIC partners:

- The Cleveland Municipal School District's Athletic Department for its high school baseball and softball programs
- The Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland
- The United Black Fund for the operation of the Larry Doby RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) Program
- The City of Cleveland Division of Recreation for the Rookie League Youth Baseball Program and a girls softball program
- The Cleveland Baseball Federation

The relationships CIC maintains with these Northeast Ohio youth-service agencies provide the opportunity to jointly create, design, and execute programs and activities. The result is programming which helps young people develop necessary life skills, learn responsibility and cooperation, and develop courage and confidence to face today's hurdles.



All Photographs This Page: Gregory Drezdson

Many of the Indians players are involved with fund raising activities for CIC. The result is a major financial commitment to Northeast Ohio organizations in support of youth education and youth recreation programs, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland. Representing the Indians (above) are Jim Thome, Dave Burba, and Charles Nagy.

Since 1989, CIC has donated nearly \$3.5 million to local organizations that serve the youth of Northeast Ohio. The Cleveland Indians organization and its players have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on the youth of Northeast Ohio. It is an opportunity and responsibility we embrace.

If you would like information on any of the programs offered through Cleveland Indians Charities, please call 216.420.4400.

Focused on Kids

The commitment of Indians players doesn't end at Jacobs Field. Many of them work off the field to help provide a better life for the youth of Northeast Ohio. Several players donate money to Cleveland Indians Charities or other local causes. Others donate their time for activities such as taping public service announcements and making school visits.

The Indians organization is dedicated to the betterment of our community.

With the youngsters at right are outfielder/designated hitter Ellis Burks and first baseman Jim Thome.



An Ace ♥with Heart

by Bill Needle



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

Bartolo Colon is who he is. He'll never be mistaken for any of the six-and-a-half foot, anatomically-sculpted flamethrowers who populate baseball's pitching mounds these days – unless you compare the numbers on the radar gun.

No matter how many fans would like him to be Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, or Roger Clemens, Colon remains who he is – a barely six-foot, two-hundred-something-pound fireplug of an ace who gives the Indians their best chance for post-season success.

And that's just fine with the Indians, thank you.

"I'll take Bartolo in a big game against anybody in baseball," says Tribe pitching coach Dick Pole. "The thing that's amazing to me is that he gets criticized by those who don't know him for his heart. Nobody had better ever get on Bart about his guts. He's a warrior, a bulldog, whatever you want to call him."

People have wanted to label Colon an "ace" for so long that many have missed his arrival as one of the AL's top righthanders. If, as John Lennon once said, "Life is what happens while you're busy making plans," Colon's arrival as the Indians top gun has happened while many were waiting for him to somehow morph into Sandy Koufax.

"What more could you possibly ask of him?" wonders Pole. "He throws 98 MPH in the first inning and 100 MPH in the seventh or eighth. When he gets to 100 pitches, he goes on to 120 – and if you want him to throw 140 (as the Indians did earlier this season), he gives you his all for all 140."

The issue of Colon becoming an "ace" seems to have bothered those outside the Indians clubhouse far more than it has bothered those within, especially Colon. "That's just a word," he says through Luis Issac, the Tribe bullpen coach who doubles as his interpreter. "People make a lot out of it. If I'm pitching good, I know I'm doing it and whatever people call me doesn't matter, whether it's 'ace,' or not."

"I'll take Bartolo in a big game against anybody in baseball . . . Nobody had better ever get on Bart about his guts. He's a warrior, a bulldog, whatever you want to call him."

Tribe Pitching Coach Dick Pole

In the post season, however, there are some specifics to the issue of being a staff ace that can be analyzed, even if Colon is aware of how well he's pitching and isn't concerned with what others label him. First, there's the matter of matching up against another team's top starter.



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzen

"The thing about being a Number One starter is that mentally you've got to accept the fact that you are going to be matched against the best pitcher on the other team," says Pole. "In the post season, of course, that's a critical matchup. But that's also the case throughout the regular season. Most of your starts, you're going to be facing the other team's top guy."

No matter to Colon. "That gets me excited, pitching against the other team's best pitcher," he says. "I like to pitch against the best."

And if the responsibility of being a team's ace has an impact on the pitcher so labeled, there's also a mental aspect to be considered by the teams who must face him.

"It's a matter of intimidating another team," Pole says. "Ideally, what we want when other teams know they're going to face Bartolo is that the hitters start to think about having to face him three or four days ahead of facing him."

"We want him to be the guy other teams hope they miss because of the way the schedule falls. They talk about having to face him. Down deep, perhaps, maybe they even fear having to face him.

"Of course in the post season, there's no way the schedule will let a team miss a pitcher like Colon as may happen during the regular season. In the post season, we arrange our rotation to get a guy like Bartolo as many starts as we can. And if teams dread facing him, we've got an advantage."

Colon makes it clear he can't control what other teams think about hitting against him. "I think about facing them," he says. "So I guess it's normal for them to think about facing me.

"I don't think hitters fear pitchers, though, because I don't fear many hitters. I respect them. In the big leagues, every hitter can hurt you. I respect them but I don't fear them."

The feelings of respect are mutual. "Colon seems to get better every time I see him," says Boston's Dante Bichette. "When I first saw him, when he was just coming up, he tried to throw the fastball past everyone. And he has a good fastball. But at our level, every hitter can adjust to a great fastball. You need more.

"Now, he's added a solid breaking pitch and a good change-up. Those make him a pitcher, not just a guy who can throw hard."

While it seems like Colon has been at the top of the Tribe rotation for a decade, he has been a full-time member of the Indians starting staff for only four-plus seasons, shuttling up and down between Buffalo and Jacobs Field five times in 1997 before arriving in Cleveland to stay in 1998.

Colon made the rotation as the Indians fifth starter in Spring Training of 1997, but

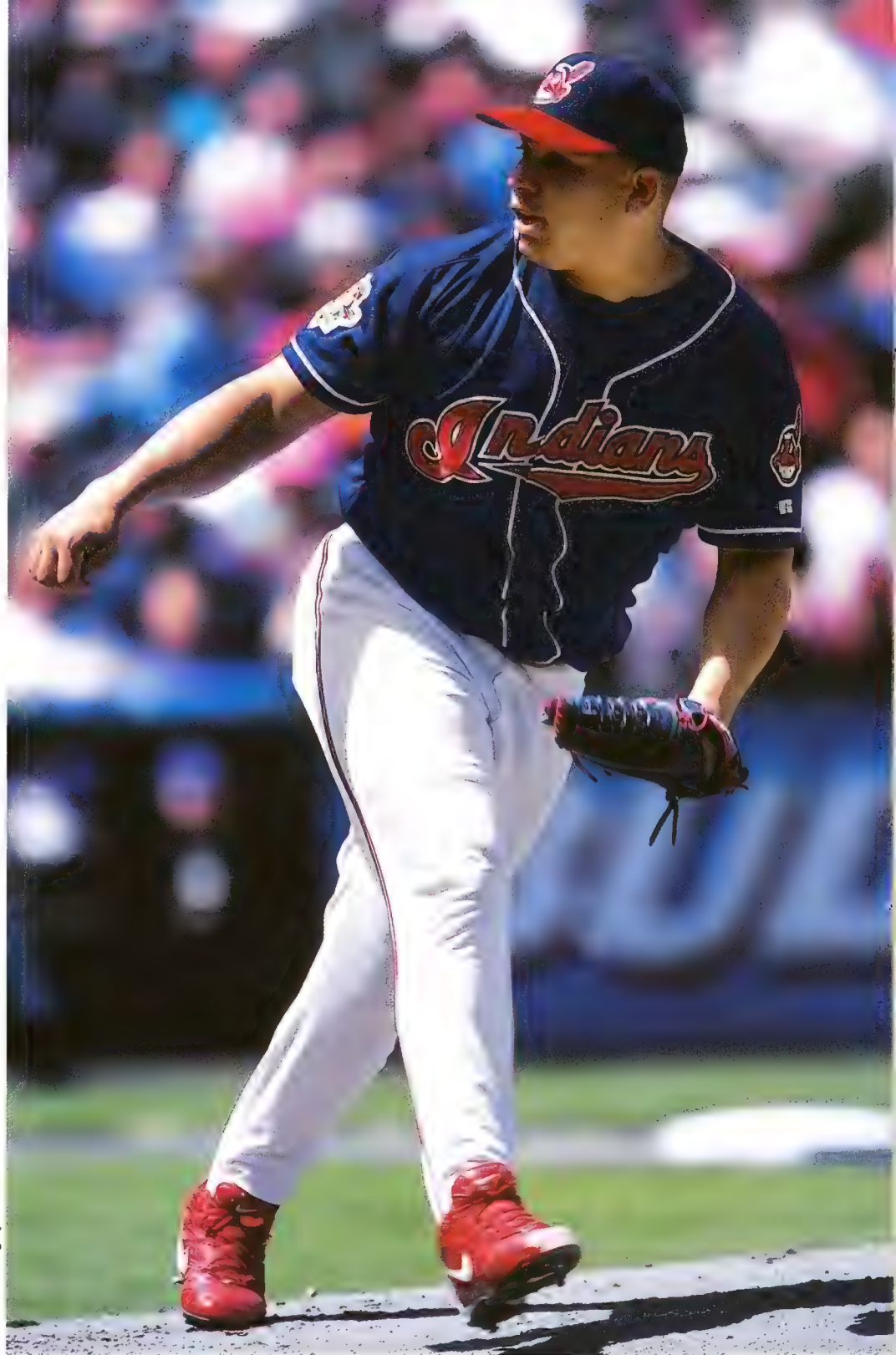


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

"It's important to me to pitch well in the playoffs. Those are the games where the great pitchers do their best."

Tribe Hurler Bartolo Colon

early-season difficulties led to a demotion two weeks into the season. By season's end, Colon had compiled a so-so 4-and-7 record with a 5.65 ERA for the Tribe in 17 starts.

But it was his work in Buffalo in 1997 that kept Indians executives optimistic about his future. In 10 starts for the Class AAA Bisons, Colon went 7-and-1 with a 2.22 ERA and a nine-inning no-hitter against New Orleans in June.

"Early on, I don't think Bartolo felt as comfortable where he was as he does now," says Indians GM John Hart. "These days, he feels he belongs. That first year (1997), he was just 21 years old and moving up and down between the Majors and Minors can have an effect on a young kid."

Colon must have felt comfortable by the start of the 1998 season because he began the season in the Tribe's starting rota-

tion and hasn't departed since. In his first start of the 1998 campaign, Colon threw a complete-game shutout against Anaheim and never looked back.

By July, the then 22-year-old Colon had thrown three complete games, three four-hitters, two shutouts, and fanned 14 in a game. Named American League Pitcher-of-the-Month for June of 1998, Colon entered the All-Star break with a 9-and-4 record and an AL-low 2.46 ERA.

Named to the AL All-Star squad in Denver, Colon capped a sensational first half

of 1998 by earning the victory in the Midsummer Classic.

But with the Indians in the post season for the first time since 1999, and Colon officially the Tribe's "Top Gun" for the first time, a detailed look at what Colon has done on the big stage of October ought to give Cleveland fans reason for optimism.

In his first post-season action, in 1998, Colon was simply sensational. He started what would be the Division Series-clinching game against Boston and delivered 5.2 innings of five-hit, one-run pitching.

Six days later, in Game Three of the ALCS against the eventual World Series Champion Yankees, Colon was even better. He tossed the first complete game by an Indians pitcher since Bob Lemon did so in 1954, giving up only four hits and one run in a 6-to-1 Tribe triumph.

In total, Colon's first post-season action ended with him allowing two earned runs in 14.2 innings pitched on nine hits for an ERA of 1.23. Not bad for a 23-year-old. Indians officials were pleased enough by Colon's performance to offer him a four-year contract the following March that will keep Colon in an Indians uniform through the end of 2002 with a team option on his services for 2003.

In 1999, a glance at the statistics of Colon's post-season performance against the Red Sox in the Division Series might be deceptive. Starting Game One, Colon allowed just two runs and five hits with a season-high 11 strikeouts in eight innings – but got no decision in a game won on Travis Fryman's hit in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Pitching on only three days rest for the first time in his career in Game Four, Colon was shelled for seven runs in one inning by the BoSox, bringing his career post-season totals to a 1-and-1 record in four starts with a 4.18 ERA.

"It's important to me to pitch well in the playoffs," Colon says. "Those are the games where the great pitchers do their best. And that's where I want to be known as a good pitcher."

If Colon's development is anything like that of his former teammate Orel Hershiser, now an analyst with *ESPN*, the 2001 Post Season should take Colon's already impressive post-season resume to greater heights.

"Being able to excel in the playoffs, in the spotlight of post-season pressure, didn't happen to me until my third or fourth year with the Dodgers, when I was about 26 or 27," Hershiser says.

"That was when I started to know exactly what kind of pitch I needed to throw to get out of a jam. There were never any doubts. I just *knew*. Then you start having some success – and success builds on itself. Soon, you want to pitch in big games, because you *know* you're going to pitch well."

With Colon, success has never depended on his "stuff." He's always had "good stuff," as the experts like to say. His critics have usually harped on his weight, or his incon-



Photo Credit: Gregory Drazdov

sistency, or – sadly – on his heart as reasons for his not matching Pedro Martinez win-for-win, year-for-year.

"I don't listen to what people say," Colon says. "They can say whatever they want about me. That doesn't make it true. I listen to my coaches, to [Manager] Charlie [Manuel], to my team. That's what matters to me."

Others will address Colon's critics, however. Pole rankles at the suggestion that Colon doesn't have the heart to pitch the Indians to post-season success. Hart answers the issue of Colon's weight.

"Bartolo is big," Hart says. "He's not fat. He has strength in the right parts of his body. He's got powerful legs and a powerful backside – that's what makes for 100 MPH fastballs. He's pitched about 200 innings for four straight years, proving he can give us big innings at his weight."

"But," Hart cautions, "Bartolo is going to have to pay attention to the weight he carries. He'll really need to watch himself in the off-seasons. If he takes care of himself, he has a chance for a great career. But it's not like he's 19 or 20 years old anymore. He's a grown man."

As for Colon's consistency, he has averaged about 15 wins a year since arriving in Cleveland to stay four seasons ago. That's a decent victories average for some, but the bar for Colon is set much higher.

"Bartolo has done quite a bit for such a young guy," Hart says. "He's given us 200 innings a year since he became part of the rotation, has won 18 games (in 1999), has finished near the top in ERA, has won in post-season play."

"I think that makes him one of the league's elite. But to be a frontline guy year-in and year-out, you've got to deliver those performances year-in and year-out, three, four years in a row. Bartolo can do things like that. He's got the stuff."

Colon grew up in the rural reaches of the Dominican Republic, riding a burro to

help his father, a coffee-bean harvester. He has achieved a level of financial success and personal comfort through baseball that has led some skeptics to wonder if Colon's success at age 26 has led to complacency, to lapses in concentration, to inconsistency, to a weight gain that comes from living a good life.

"That's ———!" says Issac, taking offense on behalf of Colon. "This is a man who knows exactly where he comes from, who works hard every day to stay where he is, and who values what he has earned through his baseball talent."

"You can't judge a man's insides by looking at the outside. If Bartolo was any of the things his critics say, would his pitches get faster late in the game? Would he throw 140 pitches to get his team a win? Just because Bartolo looks like he's having a good time when he's not pitching doesn't mean he's not a warrior when he is pitching. Anybody who criticizes Bartolo for those reasons is wrong. His critics do not know him."

One thing that *can* be said accurately about Colon is that he's a late-season

pitcher. Last season, as the Indians fought fiercely for a sixth consecutive playoff spot, only to fall short by one game, Colon's record was 3-and-0 in both August and September, 6-and-0 in the season's final two months after ending July with a 9-and-8 record. Entering 2001, Colon's record was 19-and-7 in his career in August and September, 29-and-15 if one adds his career performances in July.


"August, September, October, that's when I want to be at my best," Colon says. "That's when the great pitchers pitch their best. I'm glad I have a chance to pitch in the playoffs this season."

So are the Indians. If the Tribe is to win its first World Championship since 1948, the powerful right arm of Bartolo Colon is going to have to play a major role. And even if he *isn't* Randy Johnson, or Pedro Martinez, or Roger Clemens, the Tribe will take their chances with their stocky righthander.

Because that's exactly who Colon is: The Indians Ace.



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson



"The thing that amazes me is that he never lets anything bother him. Every time we needed a big win, it seemed like C.C. was standing on the mound, and he gave it to us."

**Indians Manager
Charlie Manuel**

Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

This was, after all, not a team that was rebuilding, a team willing to go through some growing pains now in order to become a better team down the road. This was a veteran team that needed to win NOW. A team for whom nothing short of a division title, and a serious march deep into October would be considered failure. A team like that normally doesn't have a pitcher like this in its rotation.

It's a preposterous notion, for all the obvious reasons. But apparently, nobody told that to Carsten Charles Sabathia. He is the biggest rookie – both physically and in terms of impact – the Indians have had in almost half a century. You have to go all the way back to Herb Score in 1955 for the last rookie pitcher whose arrival had such a dramatic effect on the Indians as has C.C. Sabathia in 2001.

At age 20 (he turned 21 on July 21), Sabathia not only survived his rookie season, he flourished in it. He won more games than any pitcher on the staff, was the rotation's most consistent starter all season, was totally unflappable on the mound, and mature beyond his years off of it. He was, in short, everything Indians officials hoped he'd be – five years from now. But Sabathia never was one for sticking to timetables.

Looking back on it now, the decision to start the season with Sabathia on the Major League roster seems like a stroke of genius.

"He's done more than any of us could have ever anticipated," says Indians pitching coach Dick Pole. "The thing that amazes me," says manager Charlie Manuel, "is that he never lets anything bother him. Every time we needed a big win, it seemed like C.C. was standing on the mound, and he gave it to us."

Indians farm director Neal Huntington, who oversaw Sabathia's meteoric rise through the Tribe's Minor League system, still has a hard time believing how fast it happened.

"We thought C.C. had the potential to be a terrific No. 1 or 2 starter in time, but not in two-and-a-half years," said Huntington. "He missed half a year with a minor injury, so he really has made it to the big leagues with a year and a half of experience in professional baseball. That's pretty amazing."

So is the fact that Sabathia is still only 21. The day teammate Chuck Finley threw his first big league pitch, Sabathia was six years old.

"I don't really think much about being 21," says Sabathia. "Not when I'm on the field. Sometimes I'll be at home watching *Baseball Tonight* and they will mention my name, and I'll think about it then, but I try not to get too caught up in all that."

He is a rookie who refuses to act his age. All season long Sabathia has pitched like he's 21, going on 31. Indeed, the age issue was put to rest very early this year.

"In Spring Training we had a lot of discussions about C.C.'s age," says Pole. "But finally, we realized it wasn't much of an issue, because he's so mature. He's aware of things that go on around him. When he's on the mound, he knows who the hitter is, what the count is, what the score is, who is on deck. He is aware of all of that."

Having the stuff to pitch in the big leagues is one thing, but having the mental

makeup to handle the pressure that comes with pitching in the big leagues at so young an age is equally, if not more, important.

"The toughest part about being a rookie pitcher is getting the feeling that you belong up here," says Pole. "That if you make good pitches, you'll get the hitters out, but if you don't make good pitches you'll get whacked."

Very quickly this season, Sabathia proved he belonged in the Major Leagues. He had the stuff, the confidence, and the mound presence. This was not a rookie who was in awe of being in the big leagues. He respected the hitters he faced, but he didn't fear them. It was that kind of approach, plus Sabathia's 95 mph fastball, and rapidly developing breaking ball, that helped trigger the sequence of events that led to a pitcher who had a modest record of 3-7 in just 90

Teammates, such as Einar Diaz (left), think highly of C.C.'s talents and maturity as do the Indians coaches, including Dick Pole (right).



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

innings in Double-A last season becoming a candidate to be in the Indians Opening Day rotation. The process really began last July, when Sabathia was called up from Akron to pitch for the Indians against the Arizona Diamondbacks in the Hall of Fame exhibition game in Cooperstown, N.Y. Sabathia's numbers weren't that great in the game, but after watching him throw and observing his maturity on the mound, Manuel saw that Sabathia's future was closer than anyone realized.

"That's when I first started to think he might be able to help us this year," said Manuel. "I liked his arm, his confidence on the mound, the way nothing seemed to bother him."

Manuel was so impressed that he briefly lobbied the Tribe's front office to promote Sabathia to the big leagues immediately. That was not done, but Sabathia did join the Indians for a week in September. He was never officially added to the roster, but there was some thought given to doing so. Club officials eventually decided against throwing a rookie into the heat of a Wild Card race, so Sabathia was sent home for the winter.

During the winter, Manuel spoke with Sabathia and told him that he was going to be given a chance to win a spot on the Indians Major League roster during Spring Training.

"When Charlie told me that, it was the first time I started thinking that I might be able to make it to the big leagues this year. It was very exciting," said Sabathia. During Spring Training, Manuel made no secret about the fact that Sabathia was going to be given a solid shot to win a spot in the Opening Day rotation. At times he seemed to be the big rookie's biggest booster in the organization.

"Charlie talked to me a lot in Spring Training," said Sabathia. "He told me to relax, not to put any pressure on myself, to just go out and pitch the way I can."

In order to get the rookie over the butterflies and into a pitching routine as quickly as possible, Manuel started Sabathia in the first game of Spring Training. "That helped put me at ease," said Sabathia. The big rookie had his ups and downs in the spring, but for the most part pitched well enough to be in the mix in the competition for the two openings in the rotation.

As the end of Spring Training neared, so too did the end of Sabathia's brief and rapid journey up the Minor League ladder. It was

a journey that began in Vallejo, Calif., where Sabathia was born and raised. He was always a pitcher. Played a little first base, too, but mainly a pitcher.

"In Little League I was a pitcher," he says, "I just liked the position because you were in control of the whole game."

At Vallejo High School Sabathia was a towering presence – literally and figuratively – on the school's football, basketball, and baseball teams.

"Baseball wasn't my best sport, but it was the one I liked the most," he said. "I was al-

ways better at football." So good, in fact, that he was heavily recruited by colleges as a football tight end. UCLA and Hawaii were the two front runners for his football services, with Hawaii probably having the inside track, because that was the only school willing to let him play football and baseball. But then came Major League Baseball's 1998 June Amateur Draft.

Many have noted C.C.'s maturity and willingness to accept the advice of veterans, such as Omar Vizquel (left).



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

"It was in my freshman year that I first started thinking that I might be able to play professional baseball," said Sabathia. "There were some players from our area who got drafted in other years, and I started to think that maybe I could get drafted, too." So did the scouts from the Major League teams, who soon began to migrate to Sabathia's games, particularly in his senior year, when he had a record of 6-0 with a 0.77 earned run average, 82 strikeouts, and only 14 hits allowed in 46 innings.

On the day of the draft, Sabathia knew he was a likely first rounder, but didn't think it would be the Indians who would be calling his name. "I thought the Giants were going to take me," he said. "They had three first round picks that year, and I thought they were going to use one of them on me."

The first of the Giant's three first round picks was the 19th pick overall. The Indians had the 20th pick. However, with that 19th pick, San Francisco took a high school third baseman named Tony Torcato. The Indians said "thank you very much" and quickly selected Sabathia.

"Some guys sit at home waiting for the phone to ring on the day of the draft, but I didn't want to do that," said Sabathia. "It's funny, the way I found out I was drafted is that I was in gym class at school and the principal came on over the speakers and told the whole school that I was drafted by the Indians."

Huntington still remembers the first time

he saw Sabathia throw after the draft. "My first impression was that this was an amazing player to get with the 20th pick in the draft," Huntington said. "To get a guy like this with a good arm, who is a good athlete and a good person, it's incredible to get someone with all those qualities with the 20th pick."

Why would a pitcher of Sabathia's ability slide to the 20th pick in the first round? Part of it is that high school pitchers are tradi-

tionally the biggest gambles in the draft. Scouts must watch the pitcher in high school and project what he might be capable of achieving five years down the road. Will his stuff improve? How much bigger will he get? Does he have the right makeup? Is he coachable? Those are all important questions requiring a degree of projection by the scouts. Some feel Sabathia's body

continued, see Rookie Sensation, page 56



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzen

ROOKIE SENSATION

continued from page 50

may have cooled interest in some teams. He was listed at 6-foot-6, 240 pounds in his senior year in high school, but he may have been even slightly bigger than that.

Prior to drafting Sabathia, the Indians sent Fernando Montes, their strength and conditioning coach, to California to talk with and assess Sabathia's physique and makeup. Montes came away impressed—not that the Indians area scout Paul Cogan needed any encouragement in recommending Sabathia to Tribe officials.

"This was a great job by our scouts, particularly Paul Cogan, who saw C.C. the most," said Huntington. "On draft day, it was Paul who pounded the table and said we should take him."

Sabathia's Minor League career was not exactly filled with eye-popping numbers. In his three Minor League seasons, he never won more than five games in a season.

"The toughest adjustment for me in the Minors wasn't on the field, but off it," said Sabathia. "Just leaving home for the first time was the hardest part about it. I'd never been away from home before."

Huntington said the Indians Minor League staff was impressed with Sabathia from day one. "The number one thing everyone talked about was his makeup," said Huntington. "His passion for the game, his level-headedness, and his intelligence. His intelligence was a huge separator for us. There were pitchers on other teams in the Minor Leagues with as good stuff as C.C. But all his other characteristics are what allowed him to be successful so quickly."

Although his numbers weren't great, Sabathia's status as the best pitching prospect in the organization never flickered as he moved from Burlington to Mahoning Valley to Columbus to Kinston and then to Akron. A brief fling with the United States Olympic team last year—he left the team prior to the Olympics when it became clear he wouldn't be used as a starter—helped to further Sabathia's development. And all of that led to the

decision to give him a shot at winning a spot on the Tribe's Opening Day rotation this spring.

"As we watched C.C. in Spring Training, all of us eventually felt that he had the kind of makeup where if we kept him on the big league club and he failed, it wouldn't kill him mentally," said Pole. "And there was still a chance that if we kept him he would be able to handle it."

So the decision was made. Sabathia would open the season in the Indians start-

ing rotation. There's been no looking back. No second guessing. Sabathia was not just the winningest pitcher on the staff, he was the most consistent pitcher. Slumps? Yes, he had them. But instead of lasting for a week or two, or a month like most rookies, Sabathia's slumps lasted one game.

"That's the sign of a good pitcher," said Pole. "In fact, whenever C.C. would have a bad game, he wouldn't get down about it, it's like it would pump him up. He'd come back the next start and pitch a great game."

Sabathia has been a model pupil for Pole, and it's shown on the mound.

"C.C. is very coachable," says Manuel. "He handles himself well on the mound and has a great head on his shoulders. His biggest asset is probably his intelligence. He makes the necessary adjustments and isn't afraid to use all of his pitches."

"C.C.'s maturity is really evident on days he struggles," says Huntington. "Lots of times when you see a rookie pitcher struggle in the first and second inning, you won't see the pitcher even get out of the second inning. With C.C., he may struggle early, maybe have a 30-pitch second inning and you're thinking he'll be lucky to go five, but then you look up later and he's into the seventh inning and has only thrown 97 pitches."

Indians officials were very careful with Sabathia's pitch counts, not wanting to overwork the rookie in his first year. But as the season wore on, a funny thing happened.

"I don't think he got tired as the season went on," said Manuel. "Actually, I think he got better the deeper he went into the season."

By the end of the year Sabathia had authored one of the greatest seasons by an Indians rookie pitcher in several decades. As Casey Stengel would say, who'd have thunk it? Who could have predicted in February that by October Sabathia would have had a season such as this? Nobody, not even Manuel, who was Sabathia's biggest booster, expected a season like this.

"I kind of surprised myself, to tell you the truth," said Sabathia.

Indeed, to imagine in February that Sabathia would achieve all this at age 21 would have been, well, preposterous.



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdon

Tribe Promotes from Within

by *Bill Needle*

When the John Hart Era draws to a close there will be more changes in responsibility in the Indians front office than just Mark Shapiro succeeding Hart as the Tribe's Executive Vice President and General Manager.

Three current members of the executive team that have helped maintain the Tribe's Minor League excellence have been promoted. In addition, John Farrell, former Indians pitcher has also joined the Tribe's Baseball Operations Department.

Farrell will take over the job of Director of Player Development from Neal Huntington, who will become the Indians Assistant General Manager, the position formerly held by Shapiro.

Huntington's duties will include working with Shapiro in all aspects of the day-to-day workings of the Indians at the Major League level. Huntington, 32, will also share in contract management and negotiations, as well as player procurement and strategy.

Huntington joined the Indians in 1998 after five seasons in the Baseball Operations Department of the Montreal Expos. After spending 1998 as the Tribe's Assistant Director of Minor League Operations, Huntington succeeded Shapiro as Director of Player Development when Shapiro was promoted to Assistant GM prior to the 1999 season.

As a player, Huntington was selected to the Division III All-America squad in 1991 after a stellar four-year career at Amherst (MA) College.

John Mirabelli, Indians Director of Scouting since 1999, has been named Senior Director of Scouting Operations. As Director of Scouting, Mirabelli supervised every facet of the organization's amateur scouting and has assisted Hart and Shapiro in player procurement.

In his new position, in addition to maintaining his role overseeing the Indians amateur scouting, Mirabelli will also supervise all international and professional scouting – duties formerly performed by Shapiro as Assistant GM.

Mirabelli, 40, played collegiate ball at North Carolina State and professionally in Italy. A native of Pittsburgh, Mirabelli served in various capacities in the scouting department of the Tigers before joining the Indians. In that role, Mirabelli was instrumental in the scouting and drafting of Tiger standouts Jeff Weaver, Brian Moehler, and Matt Anderson.

Mirabelli's work with the Indians in the 2000 and 2001 drafts has earned rave reviews within the baseball community.

Chris Antonetti, 28, Assistant, Baseball Operations since 1999 will become the Director of Major League Operations under Shapiro. Having assisted Hart and Shapiro in all phases of player procurement during the past three seasons, Antonetti will oversee the information systems within the Baseball Operations Department, as well as all facets of player arbitration.

Antonetti will also be involved in contract negotiations and strategies and will be responsible for tracking and analyzing financial trends for the Indians organization, as well as trends within the baseball industry.

Farrell, who pitched for the Indians between 1987 and 1990 and also in 1995, will become Director of Player Development. Now 39,

Farrell spent the last five seasons as pitching coach and recruiting coordinator at Oklahoma State University, his alma mater.

Farrell, whose responsibilities include all elements of Indians player development, began his duties in early August.

"Throughout their tenure with the Indians, Neal, John Mirabelli, and Chris have consistently demonstrated not only outstanding ability, but have also proven to be men of high character and integrity," said Shapiro.

"John Farrell has always impressed me with his professionalism, warmth, and dynamic leadership skills. He brings a tremendous work ethic and great pride to his role in what is a new and exciting chapter for the Indians organization."

Soon-to-be Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro (below) knows his staff well – having worked with them for a number of years . . . and he has expressed great regard for their abilities.



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdon

INDIANS MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

INDIANS WIVES PLAY A DIFFERENT GAME

BY JEFF SIBEL

While the Indians are battling their opposition on the field, their wives are making an impact of their own in the community. Like their husbands, the wives display hard work and dedication when it comes to community services.

In addition to taking care of their families and homes while their husbands are playing baseball, the members of the Cleveland Indians Wives' Association reach out to the Northeast Ohio community in an effort to try and make Cleveland a better place.

The Wives' Association is involved with many projects throughout the season, with their concentration being on three main projects: The Make-A-Wish Quilt Raffle, the Grand Slam Summer Literacy Program, and a new addition in the *Dine with the Tribe Recipe Cookbook*.

"As a group of women, we are in the unique situation of being able to promote different things, thanks to the success of our husbands and through the game of baseball," said Melissa Martin, Tribe manager Charlie Manuel's fiancée.

"There are so many different causes that we could choose from; however, we pick causes that hit close to home for some of us. We try to help gain awareness for the differ-

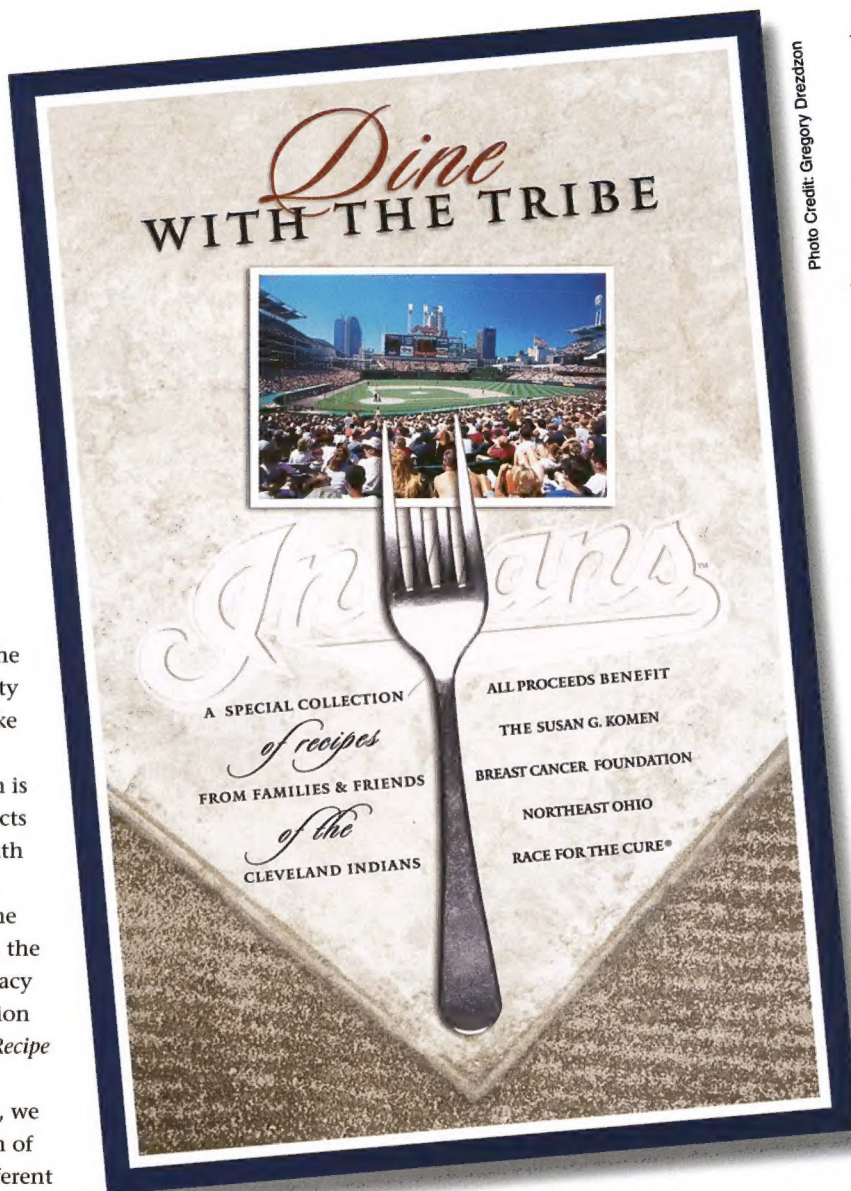


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

DINE WITH THE TRIBE RECIPE COOKBOOK

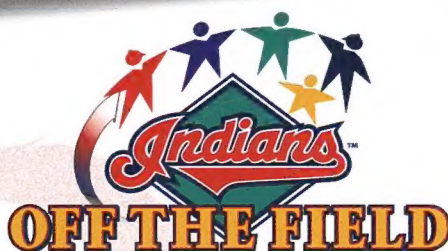
Cookbooks may be purchased exclusively at all Indians Team Shops @ \$10.00 each.

ent causes that we support by reaching out around the community. The support from the Cleveland community is always tremendous, and doing some of the different things that we do is our way of saying 'thanks' as well as giving back to the community."

The Wives' Association and the Make-A-Wish Foundation have teamed up for the past five years for a fund raiser that benefits the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast, Central, and Southern Ohio. A Cleveland Indians handcrafted team quilt is designed each year and is raffled to a lucky Tribe Fan at the end of the baseball

season. The money raised from the quilt raffle is used to help the Make-A-Wish Foundation grant the special wishes of children who live with life-threatening illnesses, while trying to stress upon the children – hope, strength, and joy.

"Helping out with the quilt raffle and knowing the proceeds go to the Make-A-



Wish-Foundation brings about great joy in not only myself, but for my husband Eddie as well," said Rene Taubensee. "Living in Orlando during the off-season, and being near Disney World, we get to see children who are living out their wishes as performed by the Make-A-Wish Foundation quite often. We see all the great things that the foundation does for the many different children who suffer from life-threatening illnesses; and knowing that the quilt raffle benefits a good cause, it is hard not to give your time to something like that."

The 2001 Cleveland Indians quilt was created by the women of the Tri-City Senior Center, located in Middleburg Heights, OH. The quilt features the handprints and signatures of every Cleveland Indians player, coach, and manager and is divided into squares, each with color-coordinated artwork. The Indians 100th Anniversary logo is also displayed, commemorating the club's participation in the American League since 1901.



Literacy Program, presented by FirstEnergy, encouraged students to read at least one book each week, earning various Cleveland Indians prizes for doing so. When they met all of the requirements of the program, the students were entered into a drawing, where the grand prize winner received a Cleveland Indians cap, t-shirt, autographed baseball, four tickets to a game, and the opportunity to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

"This was a very successful program for everyone involved," mentioned James. "As an organization, we had a chance to promote and encourage the importance of reading. By having some of the players and their wives read to the students – hopefully we encouraged the students to read more and reinforced how important it is to take time out of each day to read with your family."

Julie and Paul Shuey were among the many members of the Indians organization who read to students at various schools.

"Paul and I are avid readers, and we read to our kids a lot," said Julie Shuey. "It is sad that some kids don't have anyone to read to them, and this was a chance for us to reach out to those less fortunate. I feel that by constantly reading, you can gain more knowledge, which enables you to be better educated, which will lead to more choices in your life. Reading can open up many doors, and the Summer Literacy Program is great because it encourages kids to read."

New this year will be the *Dine with the Tribe Recipe Cookbook*. Martin came up with the idea of creating a cookbook which will give fans the opportunity to peek inside the kitchens of the players and front office families to see what different dishes are being

continued, see Wives' Work, page 100



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

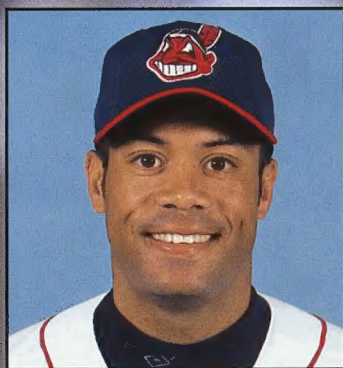
Above: Members of the Indians Wives' Association (l to r) Julie Shuey, Rene Taubensee, and Angela Woodard (with son, Cole) enjoy some time at the ballpark.



"As an organization, the Cleveland Indians goal is to try and make the community around us better in any way that we can. Without the support, participation, and creativity from the wives, the programs would not be as successful and as highly visible as they are. The wives' contributions, time, and efforts make the programs as good as they are," said Indians Director of Community Relations Latisha James.

Earlier this summer, the Wives' Association teamed up with their husbands as well as some of the Indians front office employees to read their favorite family story to elementary school students who attended summer school in the Cleveland Municipal School District. The Grand Slam Summer

2001 CLEVELAND INDIANS



**ROBERTO
ALOMAR** **12**

Age: 33, born February 5, 1968
in Ponce, PR

Position: Second Base

B/T: S/R Ht: 6'0" Wt: 185

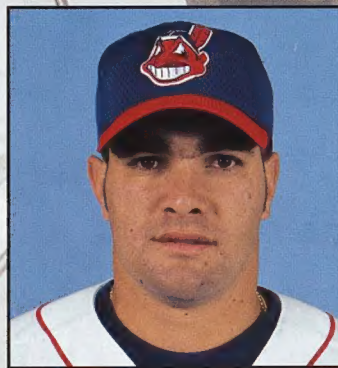


**MIKE
BACSIK** **51**

Age: 23, born November 11, 1977
in Dallas, TX

Position: Pitcher

B/T: L/L Ht: 6'3" Wt: 190

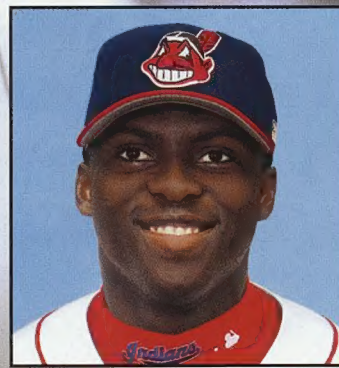


**DANYS
BAEZ** **55**

Age: 24, born September 10, 1977
in Pinar Del Rio, Cuba

Position: Pitcher

B/T: R/R Ht: 6'3" Wt: 225



**MILTON
BRADLEY** **39**

Age: 23, born April 15, 1978
in Long Beach, CA

Position: Outfielder

B/T: S/R Ht: 6'0" Wt: 190

*They're New! You Won't Want To Miss Them.
And They Benefit Cleveland Indians Charities!*

ONLINE AUCTIONS

Memorabilia collectors have a new online destination — www.indians.com

*Cleveland Indians Charities
will make four autographed items
available per week for online auction via
the Tribe's website, www.indians.com*

Weekly auctions begin each Monday at 3PM and run until noon the following Monday. The highest bidders at the conclusion of each weekly auction will be contacted via e-mail by the Indians for payment arrangements.

Payments can be made by MasterCard, the preferred credit card of the Cleveland Indians, or by VISA, Discover, American Express or by check made payable to Cleveland Indians Charities. The items will be mailed upon receipt of payment.

The highest bidders will have 48 hours to respond to the e-mail notification of their bid selection before the next highest bidder will be awarded the item. Minimum bids for each item will range from \$20 - \$100. All items will include a letter of authenticity.

All proceeds benefit Cleveland Indians Charities which supports youth education and recreation programs in the Greater Cleveland area.

Auction items will vary each week, but may include banners, autographed jerseys, bats, helmets, and photographs.

Photo: Gregory Drezdon

